



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES
MIGRANTS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
THE PRESIDENCY



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2018 NATIONAL MIGRATION DIALOGUE

REALIZING THE SDGS FOR ALL INCLUDING MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND IDPS

by

**National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced
Persons**

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Office of the Senior Special Assistant on Sustainable Development Goals

Background

Migration is one of the topical issues on the global and national development agendas. It is one of the defining features of the 21st century and contributes significantly to all aspects of economic and social development as well as environmental sustainability. It is one important area where multiple root causes of poverty, inequality and injustices are operative in hindering social development. Also, migrants and diaspora are agents of development and opportunities in their homelands and destination countries. It is therefore well recognized in Agenda 2030 as a cross-cutting issue and key to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Declaration accompanying the Sustainable Development Goals explicitly included the phrase, “We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons”.

2. Like all globalized development initiatives, realization of the SDGs requires good understanding of national contexts, tailoring responses to address development challenges and developing and deploying instruments to keep track of performance. Nigeria has adopted the SDGs and is making concerted effort to meaningfully act towards realizing these goals. However, while the interrelationship between migration and SDGs has been recognized, the realization of this inter-linkage has not been explored and indicators for tracking migration-related targets are not fully captured in the national SDGs database. To ensure migration contributes to positive development outcomes and, ultimately, to realizing the SDGs there is need to understand the impact of migration on the achievement of SDGs, and the impact this achievement will have on future migration patterns. There is also need to update the national SDGs compendium of indicators to adequately monitor, evaluate and report on migration-related SDGs targets in Nigeria.

3. The Nigeria Annual National Migration Dialogue is conceived as a strategy for the commemoration of the International Day of Migrants. It’s a platform for exploring emerging issues in global migration from a national perspective. It is aimed at providing an opportunity for reviewing the various operational challenges at the institutional level in implementing the National Migration Policy and thereby contributing to the review of existing legal frameworks in addressing these

challenges. The dialogue is also a derivative of the implementation framework of the national migration policy document. Hence it is also a platform for migration coordination for NCFRMI.

4. The 2018 dialogue will be the fourth in the series. It will focus on migration and SDGs, with the theme, "Realizing the SDGs for All including Migrants, Refugees and IDPs." The 2018 Dialogue will put the migration-development nexus on the agenda of national discourse and prepare grounds for the national implementation of the specific migration-related goals and targets of the SDGs. It will provide a platform for exploring and analyzing the intersection of migration and key development areas, and clearly bring out policy implications and the focus of a plan of action.

5. Partnership is one of the five focus areas of the 2030 agenda with a clarion call for all relevant actors at all levels—national, regional and global—to ensure that 'we deliver as one.' Contingent upon this, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), representing the Technical Work Group on Migration (TWG), is partnering with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs) in hosting this year's NMD as a step toward realizing migration-related SDGs. The partnership will build on the momentum generated at the Dialogue to facilitate the development and deployment of migration-related indicators that will guide stakeholders in the SDGs implementation policies, programmes and projects.

Justification

6. International migration has been on the sharp increase reaching record high of 258 million in 2017. Among this number 68.5 million are forcibly displaced, 40 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 25.4 million refugees, and 3.1 million asylum seekers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its resolve to 'leave no one behind' included the concerns for individuals on the move, especially the most vulnerable among them. Eleven out of the seventeen goals contain targets that explicitly related to migration and 60 out of the 230 indicators relevant to migration.

7. Nigeria ratified the Agenda 2030 and took bold steps, through OSSAP-SDGs, to adopt the Agenda for implementation at the national level. A comprehensive data mapping was conducted to establish national baselines for tracking implementation of the SDGs and identify sustainable sources of data, among other things. This has been very helpful in guiding stakeholders. However, the data mapping covered only 169 out of the 230 SDGs indicators due data challenges and acknowledged 'missing indicators'. Migration-related indicators were among these missing indicators, thus making it difficult to track and report on progress made towards actualizing migration-related targets in a country with sizeable number of people on the move. In 2017, Nigeria's migration stock was 1.2 million in 2017 in addition to an estimated Diaspora population of about 15 million. As at October 2018, there were 1,959,458 forcibly-displaced persons in Nigeria, comprising 31,948 refugees, 1,926,748 IDPs and 762 asylum seekers. There were also 231,473 Nigerians seeking refuge in Niger, Chad and Cameroon Republics.

8. Ensuring this segment of the vulnerable population with disrupted livelihoods and uncertain future is not left behind will therefore require paying special attention to the plight of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs. It will require mainstreaming migration-related SDGs targets in national and sub-national development strategies, plans, and budgets as well as localizing relevant indicators to adequately track progress towards realizing these targets. It will require bridging existing gap in SDGs-related data in order to adequately capture all migration-related SDGs targets and indicators, generating baselines and mapping and sensitizing stakeholders that will sustainably provide accurate and reliable data on these targets and indicators. The NMD will provide a unique platform for stakeholders working on migration and sustainable development to share their thoughts and perspectives, and make recommendations for policy actions. It will also generate momentum for collective action that promotes the interest of migrants, refugees and IDPs, within the context of the Agenda 2030.

Objectives

9. The main purpose of the NMD within the NCFRMI/OSSAP-SDGs joint initiative is to facilitate collective action towards realization of migration-related SDGs in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the initiative are to:

- a) enhance understanding of the migration-development nexus;
- b) make recommendations for policy actions;
- c) generate momentum among stakeholders to collectively act towards realization of migration-related SDGs; and
- d) develop and facilitate the deployment of instruments to track implementation of migration-related SDGs.

Approach and Methodology

10. The National Migration Dialogue (NMD) will be a one-day national event that will bring stakeholders involved in migration issues and the humanitarian circle to extensively discuss the migration-development nexus. The Dialogue will have two sessions.

- i. Opening Session: This will provide a platform for key Government officials to present policy direction and highlight actions taken to realization migration-related SDGs. It will also provide opportunities for other stakeholders to make Goodwill Messages. This will be accomplished largely through speeches.
 - ii. Technical Session: Position papers will be presented by few experts/stakeholders on the migration-development within SDGs context to provoke discussion on salient issues highlighted in the presentations. The presentations will be followed by an interactive session that will enable participants comment and ask questions that will be responded to by the lead speakers.
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